

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 021134Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0002

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJ: OPENING OF TELTOW CANAL TALKS PRODUCES NO  
SURPRISES

1. SUMMARY: SENAT-GDR "TECHNICAL" TALKS ON REOPENING  
OF TELTOW CANAL GOT OFF TO PREDICTABLE SHOW START  
DECEMBER 22 WITH BOTH SIDES USING OCCASION TO STATE  
THEIR DIFFERING VIEWS OF NEGOTIATION MANDATE. SECOND  
SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 3, BUT WEST BERLIN  
OBSERVERS ARE TAKING AS HARBINGER OF DIFFICULT TIMES  
AHEAD NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMENTARY THAT CALLS NEGOTIATION  
EXAMPLE OF GDR AND SOVIET POLICY OF BUILDING TIES TO  
CITY. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDIUM LEVEL SENAT DELEGATION INCLUDING THREE  
REPRESENTATIVES OF SENATOR AND HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION  
AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHANCELLORY MET FOR HOUR AND  
THREE-QUARTERS IN EAST BERLIN WITH THREE MAN GDR TEAM  
HEADED BY TRANSPORT MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND INCLUDING ONE  
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MEMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE. WHILE MEETING WAS BUSINESS-

LIKE, GDR SIDE QUICKLY MADE PLAIN THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE SLOW. DELEGATION CHIEF BEGAN BY REGRETTING THAT SENAT HAD INSISTED ON SUCH A LOW-LEVEL FOR TALKS AND THEN READ THREE-PAGE AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS:

- SENAT HAD MAJOR ECONOMIC INTEREST IN REOPENING CANAL;
- REOPENING CANAL COULD AFFECT TRAFFIC BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND FRG;
- TALKS WERE NOT LIMITED TO TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AS SENAT MAINTAINS OR TO CERTAIN PARTS OF CANAL (I.E., THEY SHOULD COVER PARTS OF CANAL IN WEST BERLIN WHICH HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE AS WELL AS SECTION IN GDR WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR QUATER-CENTURY);
- GDR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATERWAYS IN WEST BERLIN, INCLUDING TELTOW CANAL;
- GDR PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN INTERESTS OF TWO SIDES;
- POSSIBILITY THAT GDR WOULD MAKE UNILATERAL DECLARATION RESPECTING OPENING OF CANAL FOR BORDER-CROSSING TRAFFIC (PRESUMABLY AS ALTERNATIVE TO NEGOTIATING TRANSIT QUESTION WITH FRG);
- GDR'S DESIRE FOR AN AGREEMENT IN PROPER FORM (ORDUNGS-GEMAESSE VERINBARUNG");
- GDR MUST NOT SUFFER ANY ECONOMIC BURDEN AS RESULT OF REOPENING CANAL (IE., SENAT MUST PAY).

3. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION GDR NEGOTIATORS RETURNED CONSTANTLY TO COST QUSTION SUGGESTING THAT THEY ATTACH SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO IT. THEY ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STARTING POINT OF TALKS IS THAT DIFFERENCES EXIST IN VIEWS OF TWO SIDES ON LEGAL QUESTIONS. GDR NEGOTIATORS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EXTENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK WOULD DEPEND ON AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC ENVISAGED FOR CANAL, POINT ON WHICH SENAT SHOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION, AND THAT CONCEIVABLY EACH MIGHT CARRY OUT ON ITS OWN, SUBJECT ONLY TO NOTIFICATION OF OTHER, THOSE MEASURES WHICH AFFECTED ONLY ITS OWN TERRITORY. (COMMENT: IN CONNECTION WITH LAST POINT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHR GDR WAS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SENAT HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THAT PART OF WATERWAY THAT IS IN WEST BERLIN. END COMMENT)

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4. SENAT NEGOTIATORS REASSERTED THAT THEY WERE COMPETENT ONLY TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION MEASURES NECESSARY FOR PHYSICALLY RESTORING "PROBLEM-STRETCHES" OF CANAL TO USE AND SPECIFICALLY WERE NOT EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC QUESTIONS. SENAT REPS SAID THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ADDRESS COST QUESTION ONLY WHEN CLARITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON WHAT MEASURES WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKNE ON WHAT PORTIONS OF CANAL BUT

THAT THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE SOME ROUGH PROJECTIONS  
AT FEBRUARY 3 MEETING.

5. SENAT ALSO FAILED TO GET COMMITMENT FROM GDR SIDE  
FINALLY TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND LOCK  
FOR SPANDAU CANAL WHICH HAD BEEN CONCLUDED IN 1974 BUT  
FROM WHICH GDR HAD BEEN HOLDING BACK FOR MORE THAN YEAR  
SAYING TELTOW NEGOTIATIONS MUST BEGIN FIRST. GDR  
NEGOTIATORS SAID THEY HAD NO BRIEF ON SUBJECT BUT  
HAD TAKEN NOT OF SENAT'S REQUEST AND WOULD SEEK A  
DECISION.

6. COMMENTARY ON INNER-GERMAN PACKAGE PUBLISHED IN  
NEUS DEUTSCHLAND SAME DAY TALKS BEGAN (BERLIN 6948)  
TO EFFECT THAT TELTWO NEGOTIATIONS DEMONSTRATED CONSTRUCTIVE  
GDR AND SOVIET POLICY OF MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING TIES  
TO WEST BERLIN DREW IMMEDIATE REACTION FROM WESTERN PRESS.  
DER TEGESPIEGEL COMMENTARY DECEMBER 23 NOTED THAT  
NEUES DEUTSCHLAND STATEMENT WAS BASED ON ARTICLE 7 OF  
NEW SOVIET-GDR TREATY WHICH, BY CLEVER PARAPHRASE OF  
KEY ELEMENT OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, SUGGESTED THAT  
WEST BERLIN SHOULD HAVE TIES WITH GDR AND OTHER SO-  
CIALIST STATES OF SAME SORT AS IT HAS WITH FRG.  
TAGESPIEGEL ARGUES THAT MAJOR PURPOSE OF TALKS FOR GDR IS TO  
DEMONSTRATE IN PUBLIC WAY THAT FRG RIGHT TO REPRESENT  
BERLIN'S INTERESTS IS LIMITED ONE AND THAT GDR INTENDS  
TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT RELATIONS WITH CITY. GDR CAN  
BE EXPECTED TO RESIST ANY EFFORTS TO APPLY TRANSIT  
AGREEMENT REGIME TO TELTOW TRAFFIC SINCE FRG IS RESPON-  
SIBLE FOR OPERATION OF TRANSIT AGREEMENT, PAPER SAID,  
AND "THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE GDR IS TO FORSE THE SENAT  
INTO THE ROLE OF A NEGOTIATITNG GOVERNMENT INDEPENDENT  
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC."  
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GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, NEGOTIATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, TELTOW CANAL, ELECTRIC POWER, BERLIN  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE  
**To:** BONN  
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